

Agenda Item 12.1

National Reporting

Reports from Parties

Information Document 12.1.f

**2013 Annual National Report  
Lithuania**

**Action Requested**

- Take note

Submitted by

Lithuania



**NOTE:  
DELEGATES ARE KINDLY REMINDED  
TO BRING THEIR OWN COPIES OF DOCUMENTS TO THE MEETING**



# 2013 ASCOBANS Annual National Reports

Pre-filled with answers given in 2012 National Report - please update!

This format for the ASCOBANS Annual National Reports was endorsed by the 6th Meeting of the Parties in 2009. Reports are due to be submitted to the Secretariat by 31 March of each year.

Parties are requested to use this report to provide NEW information on measures taken or actions towards meeting the objectives of the Conservation and Management Plan and the Resolutions of the Meeting of the Parties.

The 7th Meeting of the Parties in 2012 agreed to move to online reporting with immediate effect. In order to benefit fully from the opportunities for synergies among CMS Family treaties afforded by this tool, Parties decided that a revised national report format be developed by a small working group assisted by the Secretariat for consideration by the Advisory Committee in preparation for the 8th Meeting of the Parties. While retaining the questions related only to ASCOBANS, it should align more closely to the format used in CMS, AEWa and EUROBATs.

## General Information

Name of Party

> Lithuania

Report submitted by

Name	Vita Augutė
Function	Chief Desk Officer of Biodiversity Division of Nature Protection Department
Organization	Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania
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## Changes

Changes in Coordinating Authority or appointed Member of the Advisory Committee

> Appointed member of the Advisory Committee:

Vita Šiožinytė

Chief Desk Officer of Biodiversity Division

Nature Protection Department

Phone number: +370 7066 2707

E-mail: v.siozinyte@am.lt

## List of National Institutions

List of national authorities, organizations, research centres and rescue centres active in the field of study and conservation of cetaceans, including contact details

> Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania

Address: A. Jakšto g. 4/9, LT-01105 Vilnius, Lithuania

Telephone: +370 5 2663661

Fax.: +370 5 2663663

Email: info@am.lt

www.am.lt

> Lithuanian Sea Museum

Address: Smiltynės g. 3, LT- 9310 Klaipėda, Lithuania

Tel.: + 370 46 492250, +370 46 490751

Fax.: +370 46 490750

Email: ljm@muziejus.lt

www.muziejus.lt

>

Marine Research Department of Environmental Protection Agency

Address: Taikos pr. 26, LT-91149 Klaipėda, Lithuania  
Telephone: +370 46 410450  
Fax.: +370 46 410460  
Email: jtd@aaa.am.lt  
[www.gamta.lt](http://www.gamta.lt)

>

Coastal Research and Planning Institute of Klaipeda University

Address: H. Manto g. 84, LT-92294 Klaipėda, Lithuania  
Telephone: +370 46 398846  
Fax.: +370 46 398845  
[www.corpi.ku.lt](http://www.corpi.ku.lt)

# Habitat Conservation and Management

## Fisheries Interactions

Direct Interaction with Fisheries

1.1 Investigations of methods to reduce bycatch

>

There was no investigation of methods to reduce bycatch.

1.2 Implementation of methods to reduce bycatch

>

There was no implementation of methods to reduce bycatch.

1.3 Other relevant information

Other relevant information, including bycatch information from opportunistic sources

>

None

1.4 Report under EC Regulation 812/2004

Please provide the link to your country's report under EC Regulation 812/2004.

> Report is enclosed.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Report 2012 on R812-2004\\_LT.doc](#)

## Reduction of Disturbance

2.1 Anthropogenic Noise

Please reference and briefly summarise any studies undertaken

> There are no studies of anthropogenic noise done or ongoing.

2.2 Ship Strike Incidents

Please list all known incidents and provide information separately for each

	Incident 1	Incident 2	Incident 3	Incident 4	Incident 5
Date					
Species					
Type of Injury					
Fatal Injury (Yes/No)					

Type of Vessel (length, tonnage, speed)					
Location (coordinates)					
More Information (name, email)					

## 2.3 Major Incidents

Major Incidents Affecting Significant Numbers of Cetaceans (two or more animals)

	Incident 1	Incident 2	Incident 3	Incident 4	Incident 5
Date					
Location					
Type of Incident					
Further Information					

## 2.4 Pollution and Hazardous Substances

Please report on main types of pollution and hazardous substances (including source, location and observed effects on cetaceans). Please provide information on any new measures taken to reduce pollution likely to have an impact.

> No new measurements were taken.

## 2.5 Other Forms of Disturbance

Please provide any other relevant information, e.g. relating to recreational activities affecting cetaceans.

>

None

## Marine Protected Areas

Marine Protected Areas for Small Cetaceans

### 3.1 Relevant Information

Please provide any relevant information on measures taken to identify, implement and manage protected areas for cetaceans, including MPAs designated under the Habitats Directive and MPAs planned or established within the framework of OSPAR or HELCOM.

>

There are no protected areas for cetaceans established in Lithuania. No measures were taken to identify such areas because of lack of data on cetaceans in Lithuanian sea zone.

### 3.2 GIS Data

Please indicate where GIS data of the boundaries (and zoning, if applicable) can be obtained (contact email / website).

>

None

# Surveys and Research

## 4.1 Abundance, Distribution, Population Structure

### Overview of Research on Abundance, Distribution and Population Structure

> Coastal Research and Planning Institute of Klaipeda University is a subcontractor in the international project "Static Acoustic Monitoring of the Baltic Sea Harbour Porpoise" (SAMBAH). Static acoustic monitoring devices which detect and log porpoise sonar click activities were set up in nine sites of Lithuania marine waters. Analysis of the collected data will be accomplished in the middle of 2014, although up-to-the-minute preliminary results are promising - Harbour porpoise was detected in two locations in northern and eastern Lithuanian waters.

## 4.2 Technological Developments

### New Technological Developments

>  
None

## 4.3 Other Relevant Research

>  
None

# Use of Bycatches and Strandings

## Post-Mortem Research Schemes

### 5.1 Contact Details

Contact details of research institutions and focal point

>

No post-mortem researches were performed.

### 5.2 Methodology

Methodology used (reference, e.g. publication, protocol)

>

None

### 5.3 Samples

Collection of samples (type, preservation method)

>

None

### 5.4 Database

Database (number of data sets by species, years covered, software used, online access)

>

None

### 5.5 Additional Information

Additional information (e.g. website addresses, intellectual property rights, possibility of a central database)

>

None

## Activities and Results

### 5.6 Necropsies

Number of necropsies carried out in the reporting period

	Number	Recorded cause of death
Phocoena phocoena		
Tursiops truncatus		
Delphinus delphis		
Stenella coeruleoalba		
Grampus griseus		
Globicephala melas		
Globicephala macrorhynchus		
Lagenorhynchus albirostris		
Lagenorhynchus acutus		

Orcinus orca		
Hyperoodon ampullatus		
Mesoplodon bidens		
Kogia breviceps		
Other (please specify under number)		
Other (please specify under number)		
Other (please specify under number)		
Other (please specify under number)		
Other (please specify under number)		
Other (please specify under number)		

### 5.7 Other Relevant Information

Please provide any other relevant information on post-mortem / stranding schemes

>

None

## **Relevant New Legislation, Regulations and Guidelines**

### 6.1 New Legislation, Regulations and Guidelines

Please provide any relevant information

> The Management plan and the Action plan for harbor porpoise in Lithuanian Baltic Sea area were prepared and adopted by order of Minister of Environment on 29 February 2012. The implementation of the plans started at the beginning of 2013 and will continue until the end of 2014. The main aim of the plans is to improve the knowledge on a state of harbor porpoise in Lithuanian Baltic Sea area by implementation of information actions, e.g. installation of information boards in the coastal area, publishing booklets and creation of a video film about the species, inquiry of fishermen about bycatch, arrangement of lectures for fishermen.

# Public Awareness and Education

## 7.1 Public Awareness and Education

Please report on any public awareness and education activities to implement or promote the Agreement to the general public and to fishermen.

> Various implementation activities of the Management plan and the Action plan for harbor porpoise in Lithuanian Baltic Sea have begun in 2013.

Short movie about Harbour porpoise was created. It is planned to introduce the film to the public through regional televisions and a national channel in 2014. It will be demonstrated in the Lithuanian Sea Museum as well.

Information about Harbour porpoise and its biology, ecology, history of observations in Lithuania, international status of protection and threats have been made available in the web site of Lithuanian Ministry of Environment (in Lithuanian language: <http://www.am.lt/VI/files/0.399438001358237915.doc> ; <http://www.am.lt/VI/files/0.917139001367477480.docx>).

Layouts of two different brochures have been made. The brochure of a shape of Harbour porpoise will contain information for the public. Another brochure with more specific information and practical design will be dedicated to fishermen. Both brochures and three beach information boards are scheduled to be produced in summer of 2014.

Some more activities are expected to take place in 2014.

> The International Harbor Porpoise Day was celebrated on 16th May 2013 at the Lithuanian Sea Museum. Celebration of the International Harbor Porpoise Day started a three-day long festival dedicated to the celebration of IHPD, giving a name to the young of Grey seal which had been fostered in the Museum and a conference on a traditional seamanship.

The Museum organized a lecture about Harbour porpoise and the artistic session "Save Harbour porpoise of Baltic sea" where the main participants were children from the foster home "Smiltelė" and a high school "Lapių". A joint artistic work was created during this session "Save Harbour porpoise of Baltic sea" and it was exhibited in the entrance of the Museum for the next days of the festival.

> In 2013 the Lithuanian Sea Museum offered a new educational programme for little children. Teaching sessions are held in kindergartens or in the Museum. One of the subjects which are presented to children is Harbour porpoise.

## **Possible difficulties encountered in implementing the Agreement**

### Difficulties in Implementing the Agreement

Please provide any relevant information

> The main difficulties originate from an insufficient data on presence of cetaceans in the marine waters of Lithuania.

Common Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) was recorded two times - one dead individual was found in 1998 and two animals were observed in 2007. According to the information of The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species it may be the best way to consider the Common Bottlenose Dolphin as extralimital in all Baltic Sea.

The last records of two Harbour Porpoise findings (as bycatch) were in 2001 and 2003. No Harbour Porpoises were detected during the marine mammals inventory in 2007-2009, which was a part of the LIFE project "Marine Protected Areas in the Eastern Baltic Sea". Final data from the international project "Static Acoustic Monitoring of the Baltic Sea Harbour Porpoise" (SAMBAH) will be available only in the end of 2014, although up-to-the-minute primary results are promising - Harbour porpoise was detected in two locations of Lithuanian waters.

**Annual report on the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 812/2004 – (2012)**

**Member State: Lithuania**

**Reference Period: 2012**

**Date: 31/05/2013**

**Author: Tomas Zolubas, e-mail: [TomasZolubas@zuv.lt](mailto:TomasZolubas@zuv.lt)**

## Summary

By implementing Council Regulation of 26.4.2004 No 812/2004 laying down measures concerning incidental catches of cetaceans in fisheries and amending Regulation (EC) No 88/98 Lithuania run in to difficulties due to two problems: Observer schemes can't be financed or co-financed under Commission Regulation (EC) No 1078/2008 of 3 November 2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 861/2006 as regards the expenditure incurred by Member States for the collection and management of the basic fisheries data (*OJ L 295, 4.11.2008, p. 24–33*) and by another EU financial programs. Part of Lithuanian fleet which operates with pelagic trawls and gillnets is relatively small. 2 gill-netters and 23 OTM trawlers are not suitable to take an observer on board on the basis of lack of space on the vessel and for safety reasons. Execution of the Lithuanian obligations on observer schemes fully depends on cooperation with one fishing company, which has 2 vessels that are operating with pelagic pair trawls (PTM). No incidental catches of cetaceans were fixed by observer in the 2012.

## ACOUSTIC DETERRENT DEVICES

### 1. General Information.

Regarding articles 2 and 3. **There were no fishing operations** by Lithuanian vessels in areas where the use of acoustic deterrent devices is mandatory as described in ANNEX 1 of Regulation 812/2004 in 2012.

### 2. Acoustic Deterrent Devices (Article 2 and 3).

#### 2.1 Description of the fleet.

Metier	Fishing area	Total fishing effort						
		No. of vessels	% vessels using pingers	No. of trips	Days at sea	Months of operation	Total length of nets	Total soak time
GNS (demersal)	27.III d.25-26	2	0	31	119	January-June, September-December	1825	3627

2.2 Mitigation measures -

2.3 Additional information -

**3. Monitoring and assessment.** Not relevant (see General information).

## OBSERVER SCHEMES

### 4. General information on implementation of Articles 4 and 5.

2 gill-netters and 16 OTM trawlers are not suitable to take an observer on board on the basis of lack of space on the vessel and for safety reasons. To fulfil the Lithuanian obligations on observer schemes are to cooperate with only fishing company, which has 2 vessels (names - Gilija and Tovė) that are operating with pelagic pair trawls (PTM). In 2012 Lithuania has made observations of cetacean family animal's bycatch by having observer on vessel "Gilija" from 23<sup>th</sup> of November to 1<sup>th</sup> of December. Pelagic pair trawlings took place in fishing area 27.III d.26 according table below:

Trawling No.	Latitude	Longitude
No.1.	55°55' N start 55°50' N end	19°30' E start 19°27' E end
No.2.	55°52' N start 55°52' N end	19°32' E start 19°29' E end
No.3.	55°49' N start 55°48' N end	19°33' E start 19°37' E end
No.4.	55°46' N start 55°44' N end	19°39' E start 19°44' E end
No.5.	55°42' N start 55°47' N end	19°45' E start 19°39' E end
No.6.	55°46' N start 55°45' N end	19°36' E start 19°37' E end
No.7.	55°48' N start 55°47' N end	19°59' E start 19°53' E end

**4.1 Provide information on legislative or administrative measures following provisions of Art.4 or 5.** (See report ANNEX 1 – Warrant of captain of vessel “Gilija”).

**4.2 Provide information on difficulties implementing articles 4 and 5 of Council Regulation (EC) No 812/2004.**

Observer schemes can't be financed or co-financed under Commission Regulation (EC) No 1078/2008 of 3 November 2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 861/2006 as regards the expenditure incurred by Member States for the collection and management of the basic fisheries data (*OJ L 295, 4.11.2008, p. 24–33*) and by another EU financial programs.

Part of Lithuanian fleet which operates with pelagic trawls and gillnets is small. gill-netters and 23 OTM trawlers are not suitable to take an observer on board on the basis of lack of space on the vessel and for safety reasons. Execution of the Lithuanian obligations on observer schemes fully depends on cooperation with one fishing company, which has 2 vessels that are operating with pelagic pair trawls (PTM).

**4.3 Indicate whether the observer programme is dedicated for the purpose of this Regulation only, or whether the on-board observers are used for other purposes also.**

Observer on board made observations on cetacean family animal's bycatch and at the same time collected biological sprat and herring samples for Lithuanian national data collection purposes.

## 5. Monitoring

### 5.1 Description of fishing effort and observer effort in towed gear.

Metier	Fishing area	Total fishing effort						Total observer effort achieved*						Type of monitoring	Coverage
		No. of vessels	No. of trips	Days at sea	Season	No. of hauls	Total towsing time	No. of vessels	No. of trips	Days at sea	Season	No. of hauls	Total towsing time		
OTM (small pelagic fish)	27.III d.	23	273	722	January-December	462	3154	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PTM (small pelagic fish)	27.III d.	2	20	111	February-May, December	70	737	1	1	9	November-December	7	45	Observation of trawling	8,1

\*(See Chapter 4. General information on implementation of Articles 4 and 5.)

#### Additional information.

No fishing efforts with pelagic pair trawls (PTM) were made in 22-24 ICES Subdivisions. No fishing efforts with pelagic trawl (OTM) were made in 22-24 ICES Subdivision. All efforts took place in 25-32 ICES Subdivisions.

Fishing efforts made with 23 small fishing vessels (OTM fishing gear) = 75271 kw\*fishing days.

Fishing efforts made with 2 big fishing vessels (PTM fishing gear) = 118062 kw\*fishing days.

Fishing efforts at all: 193333 kw\*fishing days.

### 5.2 Description of fishing effort and observer effort in static gear.

Metier	Fishing area	Total fishing effort						Total observer effort achieved*						Type of monitoring	Coverage
		No. of vessels	No. of trips	Days at sea	Season	Total length of nets	Total soak time	No. of vessels	No. of trips	Days at sea	Season	Total length of nets	Total soak time		
GNS (demersal fish)	27.III d.25-26	2	31	119	January-June, September-December	1825	3627	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

\*(See Chapter 4. General information on implementation of Articles 4 and 5.)

## 6. Estimation of incidental catches.

Fishing efforts made with 23 small fishing vessels (OTM fishing gear) = 75271 kw\*fishing days.

Fishing efforts made with 2 big fishing vessels (PTM fishing gear) = 118062 kw\*fishing days.

Fishing efforts at all: 193333 kw\*fishing days. Observer was on board when efforts of 18342 kw\*fishing days were made. 9,5 percent of kw\*fishing days were observed.

No incidental catches of cetaceans were observed in the 2012.

## **7. Discussion.**

Lithuania does not assent to characteristic of indicator “Coverage” in table 5.1. expressed like percentage of “days at sea observed” according to “days at sea”. If one of the tasks of Regulation (EC) 812/2004 is to make evaluation of cetacean family animal bycatch, than the most important is to evaluate water volume filtered by trawls. Such water volume is not good reflected by number of trips and is not good reflected by number of fishing days. We propose to use characteristic - **kw\*fishing days** for “Coverage” evaluation.

## **8. Conclusions.**

No incidental catches of cetaceans were observed in the 2012.

PAŽYMA  
WARRANT

Aš laivo „Gilija“ kapitonas Petras Pantelejev patvirtinu, kad Tomas Zolubas (paso numeris 22054322) buvo laive „Gilija“ nuo 2012 m. lapkričio 23 d. – 2012 gruodžio 1 d. kaip biologinių žuvų duomenų surinkėjas ir stebėtojas.

**I, captain of vessel „Gilija“ Petras Pantelejev certify, that Tomas Zolubas (passport number 22054322) was on board „Gilija“ like observer and biological fish data collector from 23<sup>th</sup> of November till 1<sup>th</sup> of December in 2012.**

SKAGEN  
2012-12-01

